



Intelligence Services Act 1994

1994 CHAPTER 13

The Secret Intelligence Service

1 The Secret Intelligence Service

- (1) There shall continue to be a Secret Intelligence Service (in this Act referred to as “the Intelligence Service”) under the authority of the Secretary of State; and, subject to subsection (2) below, its functions shall be—
 - (a) to obtain and provide information relating to the actions or intentions of persons outside the British Islands; and
 - (b) to perform other tasks relating to the actions or intentions of such persons.
- (2) The functions of the Intelligence Service shall be exercisable only—
 - (a) in the interests of national security, with particular reference to the defence and foreign policies of Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom; or
 - (b) in the interests of the economic well-being of the United Kingdom; or
 - (c) in support of the prevention or detection of serious crime.

2 The Chief of the Intelligence Service

- (1) The operations of the Intelligence Service shall continue to be under the control of a Chief of that Service appointed by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The Chief of the Intelligence Service shall be responsible for the efficiency of that Service and it shall be his duty to ensure—
 - (a) that there are arrangements for securing that no information is obtained by the Intelligence Service except so far as necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and that no information is disclosed by it except so far as necessary—
 - (i) for that purpose;
 - (ii) in the interests of national security;
 - (iii) for the purpose of the prevention or detection of serious crime; or
 - (iv) for the purpose of any criminal proceedings; and

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (b) that the Intelligence Service does not take any action to further the interests of any United Kingdom political party.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2)(a) above, the disclosure of information shall be regarded as necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Intelligence Service if it consists of—
 - (a) the disclosure of records subject to and in accordance with the Public Records Act 1958; or
 - (b) the disclosure, subject to and in accordance with arrangements approved by the Secretary of State, of information to the Comptroller and Auditor General for the purposes of his functions.
- (4) The Chief of the Intelligence Service shall make an annual report on the work of the Intelligence Service to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State and may at any time report to either of them on any matter relating to its work.